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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Ethiopia – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

December 4, 2008

Note: The last situation report was dated November 5, 2008.

BACKGROUND

Consecutive seasons of failed rains, exacerbated by a rapidly growing population, rising inflation, endemic poverty, and limited government capacity, have led to chronic food insecurity and water shortages in Ethiopia. The delayed onset and poor performance of the March to May *belg* rains, combined with the widespread failure of the previous two consecutive rains, have resulted in below normal harvests and diminished pasture throughout Somali, large areas of Oromiya, Afar, Tigray, Amhara, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions. Significant humanitarian challenges, including flooding, conflict, malnutrition, delayed food response, and locust and armyworm infestations, confront populations in many areas of the country. In Somali Region, insurgent activity and security operations have disrupted trade networks, and restrictions on the movement of people and livestock combined with the failure of past rains have exacerbated food insecurity.

On October 14, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (GFDRE) revised the number of people in need of emergency assistance from 4.6 million to 6.4 million, including nearly 1.9 million people in Somali Region. In addition to the 6.4 million people in need of emergency assistance countrywide, an additional 7.2 million beneficiaries currently receive food or cash assistance from the GFDRE–managed Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP).

On October 6, 2008, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Deborah R. Malac reissued a disaster declaration in response to humanitarian conditions in Ethiopia. In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided nearly \$668 million for emergency food assistance, logistics and relief commodities, health, nutrition, risk reduction, agriculture and food security, humanitarian coordination and information management, economy and market systems, and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions targeting drought-affected populations throughout the country. The assistance includes \$3.9 million for the local purchase of food to support U.N. World Food Program (WFP) operations.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
GFDRE PSNP Caseload	7.2 million	GFDRE Food Security Coordination Bureau – September 2008
PSNP Caseload Requiring Emergency Food Assistance	5.6 million	GFDRE MOARD ¹ – September 2008
Additional Population Requiring Emergency Food Assistance	6.4 million	GFDRE MOARD – October 2008

FY 2009 AND FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$36,129,466
USAID/FFP ² Assistance to Ethiopia	\$621,191,200
State/PRM ³ Assistance to Ethiopia	\$10,522,676
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Ethiopia.....	\$667,843,342

CURRENT SITUATION

Although nearly all areas in Ethiopia have received rain since the start of November, increasing water and pasture availability, heavy and unseasonably late rains have damaged crops in many lowland and midland areas and caused severe flooding in southeastern and southwestern areas of the country.

On November 25, the USAID-supported Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reported that while near normal October to December *deyr* rains have improved water and pasture availability in some areas of Somali, Oromiya, Tigray, Afar, and SNNP regions, increased humanitarian assistance is needed

¹ GFDRE Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD). As of July 8, the responsibilities of the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) were officially transferred to the MOARD Early Warning and Response Department (EWRD) as part of a planned restructuring process.

² USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

for the 6.4 million beneficiaries requiring relief countrywide due to successive poor rains, crop failure, and high food prices. WFP reports that although late-planted *meher* crops are in good condition, recent heavy rains have led to flooding that has caused significant damage to mature crops in parts of Amhara, SNNP, Oromiya, Tigray, and Somali regions.

FEWS NET also notes that due to poor animal conditions, livestock prices remain low. Although cereal prices are declining, prices remain significantly above the five-year average. In addition, below average July to September *karma* rains have led to high rates of acute malnutrition in areas of Afar and Somali regions, and delayed PSNP food transfers nationwide have exacerbated malnutrition rates.

To inform future USAID humanitarian interventions, the USG Humanitarian Assistance Team (HAT) continues to conduct humanitarian assessments of affected areas to examine health, nutrition, food security, livelihood, and water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions. The USG HAT is also working with USAID/Ethiopia to support critical livelihood rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction activities and address the needs of internally displaced persons countrywide.

Nutrition

USAID/OFDA non-governmental organization (NGO) partner Concern reports deteriorating child nutrition conditions in Amhara Region. A lack of food availability in some areas has resulted in families sharing supplemental rations. Concern notes the need for rapid humanitarian interventions to avoid further deterioration.

According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Oromiya Regional Health Bureau, in collaboration with the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), recently commenced an enhanced outreach strategy for child survival targeting more than 5 million children under five years of age and approximately 1.2 million pregnant and lactating women.

On November 13, the GFDRE Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit reported that due to nutrition improvements in SNNP Region, at least two NGOs are transitioning responsibility for feeding programs to the GFDRE. However, the USG HAT notes that the need for nutrition interventions will likely increase following the conclusion of the *meher* harvest, and that the humanitarian community will likely resume operating feeding programs in the coming months.

In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$12 million to support nutrition activities in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali, and Tigray regions.

Agriculture and Food Security

FEWS NET estimates that the poor performance of the June to October *meher* rains will reduce *meher* crop production by up to 30 percent in crop-producing areas of eastern Ethiopia, including the midlands of Somali Region and eastern areas of Amhara, Tigray, and Oromiya regions. In addition, although food prices have decreased in recent months, the average price of cereals countrywide is currently 200 percent and 100 percent more than the five-year and one-year averages, respectively.

In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$4 million to support food security and agriculture programs in Somali, SNNP, and Oromiya regions, including mobile veterinary services and support for enhanced FEWS NET monitoring capacity in Somali Region. With USAID/OFDA and Norwegian Aid funds, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has supplied short-cycle seeds in North Wollo, South Wollo, and North Shewa zones, Amhara Region.

Emergency Food Assistance

OCHA reports a total food aid shortfall for relief and therapeutic supplementary feeding programs for the remainder of 2008 of more than 86,000 metric tons (MT), valued at more than \$75 million. However, the 2008 PSNP requirements have been met. OCHA estimates that shortfalls for all three food assistance programs will likely near 530,000 MT, valued at more than \$455 million, for the first semester of 2009. Due to delays in food arrivals, WFP reduced the November relief ration to 10 kg of cereals, 4.5 kg of corn soya blend, and no pulses or oil.

The USG HAT continues to assist with the implementation of the hub-and-spoke food aid distribution system in Somali Region. As of November 14, WFP had transported 10,000 MT of food under the hub-and-spoke system. All beneficiaries in Shinile and Warder zones have received food rations under the system. WFP has not been able to dispatch food to Fik Zone and has only dispatched food to some beneficiaries in Jijiga, Degehabur, Korahe, and Gode zones.

In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has contributed \$3.9 million for the local purchase of food assistance to support WFP operations in Ethiopia. USAID/FFP has provided more than 806,830 MT of food assistance to Ethiopia in FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, valued at more than \$621 million.

Flooding

Recent flooding caused by heavy rainfall beginning in early November has resulted in the deaths of at least 14 individuals and displaced approximately 100,000 people in Gambella, SNNP, and Somali regions, according to the GFDRE and OCHA.

WFP and OCHA report that in Gambella Region, flooding has displaced nearly 12,000 individuals and left more than 600 households in need of emergency assistance. In SNNP Region, flooding has killed 11 people, displaced nearly 300 households, submerged more than 100 villages, destroyed more than 3,000 hectares of crops, and killed 6,000 head of livestock. In Somali Region, flooding has resulted in the deaths of three individuals, displaced more than 52,000 people, and damaged an estimated 3,000 hectares of agricultural land.

Joint U.N.–NGO assessment teams have deployed to affected regions to assess flood-related damage, including USAID/OFDA partners.

In addition, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$2 million to support a rapid response program through NGO partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) to assist communities in Ethiopia facing natural and conflict-driven disasters. In response to the recent flooding, IRC has distributed non-food items, such as household utensils and blankets, to approximately

10,000 displaced beneficiaries in Gambella Region and 200 displaced households in Somali Region. IRC continues to monitor the situation in SNNP and has deployed staff to the region to monitor humanitarian needs.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

The number of confirmed acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases has decreased throughout Ethiopia since the beginning of 2008, with only one AWD-related death occurring since the week of October 20, according to OCHA. However, USAID/OFDA NGO partner Save the Children/UK reports that heavy rainfall in Afar Region has contributed to an outbreak of AWD in Gewwane, Awash, and Gulina districts. At present, AWD is reported in Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, and Tigray regions, according to OCHA.

In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$2 million to NGO partner IRC for a water, sanitation, and hygiene rapid response program countrywide to benefit approximately 390,000 people.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

FY 2009			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Mercy Corps	Nutrition, Agriculture and Food Security, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Oromiya and Somali Regions	\$822,975
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$155,077
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$978,052
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	71,690 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$59,699,400
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$59,699,400
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2009			\$60,677,452
FY 2008			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Nutrition	Somali Region	\$800,000
CHF International	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Somali Region	\$1,449,973
Concern	Nutrition	Amhara, Oromiya, Tigray, and SNNP Regions	\$2,580,737
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture and Food Security, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	SNNP and Oromiya Regions	\$750,000
DPPA	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$418,625
GOAL	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$3,000,000

International Committee for the Development of Peoples (CISP)	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Oromiya Region	\$175,000
IMC	Health, Nutrition, Risk Reduction	Oromiya and SNNP Regions	\$1,150,199
IRC	Agriculture and Food Security, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Countrywide	\$4,317,516
Merlin	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Oromiya Region	\$628,569
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security, Nutrition, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Oromiya and Somali Regions	\$1,355,887
Samaritan's Purse	Agriculture and Food Security, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	SNNP, Gambella, and Somali Regions	\$652,967
SC/UK	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Somali Region	\$1,724,436
U.N. Development Program (UNDP)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Somali Region	\$363,051
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Amhara Region	\$1,000,000
FAO	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Somali Region	\$309,678
UNICEF	Nutrition	Somali, SNNP, and Oromiya Regions	\$5,000,000
UNICEF	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Amhara, Somali, SNNP, and Oromiya Regions	\$800,000
UNICEF	Health	Somali Region	\$1,536,442
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Somali Region	\$500,000
WFP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics and Emergency Relief Supplies	Somali Region	\$510,680
WFP	Local/Regional Food Procurement and Distribution	Countrywide	\$3,900,000
CARE	Risk Reduction, Agriculture and Food Security, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Afar and Oromiya Regions	\$150,000
SC/US	Risk Reduction, Agriculture and Food Security	Afar and Somali Regions	\$750,000
Tufts University	Risk Reduction	Somali Region	\$100,000
FEWS NET	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$483,232
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$744,422
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$35,151,414
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP and NGO Partners	351,410 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance and Emerson Trust	Countrywide	\$259,940,800
WFP and NGO Partners	383,730 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance (for the PSNP)	Countrywide	\$301,551,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$561,491,800
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
IMC	Refugee Assistance in Aw Barre and Sheder Camps	Somali Region	\$610,024
IRC	Refugee Assistance in Shimelba, Aw Barre, Kebribeyah, Sheder, My Ayni, and Sherkole Camps	Somali, Tigray, and Beneshangul Gumuz Regions	\$2,644,052

Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Refugee Protection and Assistance	Countrywide	\$5,848,600
Somali Cultural Literacy Center	Refugee Assistance	Addis Ababa Region	\$2,222
Africa Humanitarian Action	Refugee Assistance in Shimelba Camp	Tigray Region	\$8,378
WFP	Refugee Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,400,000
ZOA	Refugee Assistance in Shimelba Camp	Tigray Region	\$9,400
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$10,522,676
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN FY 2008			\$607,165,890
FY 2009 AND FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO DATE			
USAID/OFDA			\$36,129,466
USAID/FFP			\$621,191,200
STATE/PRM			\$10,522,676
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA			\$667,843,342

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of December 4, 2008.

² Estimated value of food assistance.



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